

**ABSTRACT**

Provided is an apparatus for wireless communications that includes:  
means for wirelessly communicating with a base station in accordance with a first  
5 protocol that permits the apparatus to function as a telephone; means for  
permitting a user to designate a telephone number for a remote device that the  
user desires to contact; means for identifying an access telephone number that is  
different than the telephone number; means for providing the access telephone  
number to the base station, in accordance with the first protocol, so as to indicate  
10 that a connection is desired with a routing system corresponding to the access  
telephone number; and means for providing the telephone number to the routing  
system in accordance with a second protocol (e.g., using the telephone  
connection established with the routing system), so as to indicate that a  
connection is desired with the remote device. In addition, the invention is directed  
15 to facilitating telephone-based communications. Initially, a contact telephone  
number is assigned to each of a number of different subscribers. An electronic  
message that has been formatted in accordance with an established protocol is  
received from a particular subscriber from among the different subscribers, the  
message identifying a current telephone number for the particular subscriber. A  
20 telephone call is received on the contact telephone number for the particular  
subscriber, and the telephone call automatically is forwarded to the current  
telephone number by dialing the current telephone number.